

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04964 241837Z

63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 OMB-01 DHA-02 /088 W

----- 025648

R 231231Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3491

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4964

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, PINS, PINT

SUBJ: RHODESIA: DREAMING OF WHITE CHRISTMASES

REF: PRETORIA 4746

1. RECENT WEEKS HAVE SEEN INCREASING VOLUBLE GRUMBLINGS ON PART OF CONSERVATIVE RHODESIAN WHITES. CONCERN IS THAT SOMEHOW PRIME MINISTER MSITH WILL BETRAY THEIR INTERESTS IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NKOMO. APPREHENSION CONTINUES DESPITE SMITH'S STATEMENT (REFTEL) TO THODESIAN SENATE DEC. 9 THAT ANY SOLUTION BASED ON IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE IS UNACCEPTABLE.

2. FAR-RIGHT GROUPS HAVE ORGANIZED RECENT MEETINGS IN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04964 241837Z

SALISBURY AND OTHER RHODESIAN CITIES TO WARN SMITH

AGAINST "SELL-OUT". AT SALISBURY MEETING, DEC. 16, APPROXIMATELY 1,000 WHITES HEARD SPEAKERS OF CANDOUR LEAGUE, UNITED CONSERVATIVE PARTY, RHODESIAN NATIONAL PARTY AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE (SASCON) ASSERT THAT THERE CAN BE "NO ACCOMMODATION WITH TERRORISTS AND COMMUNISTS". MEETING UNANIMOUSLY PASSED RESOLUTION CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO SUBMIT ANY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO WHITE VOTERS FOR REFERENDUM.

3. IN RESPONSE TO APPREHENSION, RHODESIAN FRONT MP'S, TAKING PAINS TO REASSURE WHITES. IN VARIOUS CHRISTMASTIME LETTERS TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS MP'S HAVE REASSERTED SMITH'S NO SELL-OUT STAND. MINISTER OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, MARK PARTRIDGE, WROTE IN HIS LETTER THAT " AS YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT I WILL NOT BE PARTY TO ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES THAT GIVE CONTROL IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO AN AFRICAN MAJORITY".

4. IN HIS YEAR-END REPORT RF BACKBENCHER DR. COLIN BARLOW SAID THAT GOVERNMENT "HAPPY TO NEGOTIATE FROM POSITION OF STRENGTH... WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO GIVE UP THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT TO AN UNSOPHISTICATED SOCIETY PURELY FOR THE SAKE OF EXPEDIENCY." INTERESTINGLY, BARLOW TOLD HIS CONSTITUENTS THAT GOVERNMENT, MOVING AHEAD WITH PLAN TO DIVIDE NATION INTO THREE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS. ONE WHITE AND TWO BLACK, AND THAT A "EUROPEAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WILLBE SET UP AS SOON AS IT PRACTICABLE".

5. COMMENT: SUCH IS THE MORASS OF REASSURING RHETORIC IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT THE REAL POSITIONS ARE WITHIN RHODESIAN FRONT. HOWEVER, PAT BASHFORD, PRESIDENT OF RELATIVELY LIBERAL, MULTI-RACIAL CENTRE PARTY, TOLD RHODESIAN HERALD THAT MORE THAN A THIRD OF RHODESIA FRONT STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SETTLEMENT AND THAT PRIME MINISTER SMITH WOULD HAVE TO BREAK WITH THIS RIGHT WING TO REACH SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO AFRICAN NATIONALISTS. BASHFORD QUOTED AS DOUBTING SMITH'S ABILITY OR WILLINGNESS TO DO SO AND SAYING THAT "OUR ONLY HOPE LIES IN THE POSSIBILITY THAT MR. DAVID SMITH WILL ASSERT HIMSELF AND TRY TO FORM A

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 04964 241837Z

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY". DAVID SMITH IS CURRENTLY RHODESIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. BASHFORD'S STATEMENT IS FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE THAT STRONG DIFFERENCES EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO SMITHS. ON THE OTHER HAND, BASHFORD MAY SIMPLY BE ENGAGING IN WISHFUL THINKING. BOWDLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR04964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750447-0874
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751215/aaaaamua.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PRETORIA 4746
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: DREAMING OF WHITE CHRISTMASSES
TAGS: PINS, PINT, RH, (SMITH, IAN), (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006